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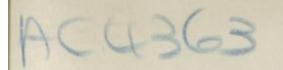
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ABRIDGED REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR 1940

BY

E. H. R. SMITHARD, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

AVERAGED TABULATED STATISTICS IN FIVE YEAR PERIODS

Years	Population	Density per acre	Persons per heredit- ament	Births	Birth- rate (per I,000 pop.)	Deaths	Death rate (per I,000 pop.)	Infant mortality rate (perl,000 live births)	T.B. notifica- tion rate (all forms) (per1,000 pop.)	T.B. death rate (all forms) (per1,000 pop.)
1893-1897	121,749	188	obsession of the last	4,266	35-0	2,744	22.5	185	300.500	2.9
1898-1902	118,835	185		4,029	33-8	2,646	22.3	196	-	2.8
1903-1907	115,549	180	-	3,810	32-1	2,324	20-1	170	a compality	3.0
1908-1912	112,305	167		3,594	32.0	2,070	18-5	144		2.4
1913-1917	101,341	156	1 100	3,032	29.9	2,002	19-8	145	6.3	2.9
1918-1922	98,913	153	yleshir	2,727	27-6	1,667	16.9	117	3.8	2.0
1923-1927	105,640	164		2,538	24.0	1,372	13.0	79	2.5	1:4
1928-1932	98,336	149		1,888	19.2	1,318	13-4	76	2.2	1-1
1933-1937	88,044	133	6.6	1,347	15.3	1.104	12.5	68	1.7	0.9
938	80,360	122	5.7	1,181	14.7	915	11.4	64	1.5	0.7
939	77,280	117	5.5	1,113	14.4	942	12.9*	31	1.2*	1-13
1940	57,090	86	4.7	916	16.0	1,318	23-1	69	1.9	1.5

^{*} These rates are based on a population figure for deaths of 72,910

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report of the health department for 1940 is again a mere interim statement which records only the basic facts of the work done.

Up to the middle of August, 1940, the clinics were almost the pre-war number and were well attended. The first air raid then took place, and for a period from 7th September raiding became intensive. As a result there was a large amount of re-evacuation of young children, but even at the end of the year it was estimated that some 30 per cent. of the pre-war number of under-fives (about 1,700 in all) were still living in the borough. The clinic attendances from September onwards suffered fairly considerably and as a result some of the clinics were closed down. Health visiting in the homes, which after all is probably the most important part of a health visitor's duties, was persevered with, and the figures for the various divisions of health visiting do not show much diminution on those for 1939.

In July, 1940, the National Milk Scheme was started. This ensured the provision of one pint of milk a day to children under five years of age and to expectant or nursing mothers. Later, for children under one, this was allowed to be substituted by dried milk. The medical officer of health was appointed as milk officer, duplication of staff being thereby avoided and co-ordination with other welfare work being ensured, and the scheme has seemed to work quite smoothly and satisfactorily.

The total number of babies born and classified as belonging to the borough shows a decrease from 1,113 to 916. The great majority of these were born outside the borough. The infantile mortality rate for the year went up to 69, which is disappointing though not altogether surprising. It will be seen from the causes of death that the main increase in the deaths of infants was due to pneumonia, which of course indicates a rise in respiratory and catarrhal infections generally.

The problem of the immediate future for children under five years of age is a large and difficult one and does not appear to be even approaching a satisfactory solution. The emphasis on evacuation has been on school-children, to the relative exclusion of the under-fives. The tendency of the Ministry to ask local authorities to set up day nurseries in the evacuation areas will do little to help the problem, but it is still hoped that it may be possible to proceed with a scheme for the setting up of residential nurseries in reception areas. Meanwhile, in raiding conditions, and to a lesser extent in the lull periods, children under five are sleeping in public or private shelters. It is very difficult to state definitely what, if any, harm is being caused to them by this. The general belief is that shelter life, particularly in the larger basement or tube shelters, must be harmful, and therefore continued attempts have been made primarily to remove the under-fives from the borough, but secondarily to ameliorate shelter conditions. The fear one has, however, is that, although it is difficult to prove here and now that the children are adversely affected, it may be that the adverse effects will show themselves suddenly and indeed tragically in a severe epidemic of disease.

With regard to their mental outlook, the position is probably a happier one. Gross mental trouble in the way of hysteria and anxiety was conspicuous by its absence during the autumn raids. There was some mild anxiety during the first few days, but as soon as there was a pause in the blitzing the individual adult returned very rapidly to normal. The effect on the child under five in any case is not likely to be great unless the child is personally injured, or has an over-anxious

parent, or is frightened by what an ignorant parent or other adult might say to it. The young child is less able to appreciate the uncertainties of the future, and although a personal shock might well have a lasting effect on even a very young child, its shortness of outlook and its ease of adaptability probably prevent any lasting mental injury in all but a very few cases.

The home for toddlers established at Mayfield in 1939 was continued during 1940, and has already proved its worth from the obvious increase in physical health produced in the children as a result of their period of stay there. Two hundred and six children were given the benefit of this stay in the country, with its consequent supervision of dietary, etc., during the year, and this would have been increased but for the occurrence of a few cases of infectious disease, which is always the bugbear of residential homes for children.

The voluntary infant welfare centre at Herbert Grove, which covered a small part of the west end of the borough, was taken over by the Borough Council in April, 1940. The two nurses who had been employed there were taken on to the Borough Council's staff. The clinics held were increased, thus allowing the temporary premises at Hoxton Hall to be abandoned.

As a result of the autumn raids, a special scheme was put into operation by the Ministry of Health for the evacuation of aged and infirm persons. In all, nearly 600 persons were evacuated under this scheme from Shoreditch, and although frequently the difficulties attending their departure (blitzing of roads, railway termini, etc.) were great, a personal gift from the Mayor and one or two other comforts for the journey served to make their departure more bright. In addition they were provided with a post card on which they could ask for articles such as boots, overcoats, etc., which they might particularly want. Miss Morrell was in charge of this work and devoted a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to it. The money for the articles supplied came from the Mayor's fund, and from the letters of thanks that were received it was obvious that the gifts were greatly appreciated.

A problem which has been giving rise to much anxiety, especially during warmer weather, is that of vermin in shelters and in houses generally. Steps were being taken by the end of the year to deal with this matter by shelter spraying and disinfection, and also by steam and hot-air disinfection of bedding, but the problem is large and difficult, and no complacency is felt about the future.

With regard to infectious disease, tuberculosis gives cause for grave concern. The number of cases has increased, and there is the additional danger of infection from "open" cases in public shelters. There are many factors in the causation of tuberculous infection, and the young adult woman appears to be especially susceptible. The problem—a national as well as a local one—involves assault on all the possible causal factors—malnutrition, anxiety, overstrain, insufficient leisure in the open air, bad housing, and so on—but it would seem that preventing the open case coming into close contact with other people should be a major, and immediate, goal. A table illustrating the position is printed on page 8, but should not be taken as giving a complete picture since other factors (e.g., age distribution of the population) are not dealt with.

It will be noted from the statistics that the general death rate is considerably higher than in the previous year, but a part of this increase is due to the number of deaths in the category "Other violent causes," which number 299.

In a year which was certainly not without its difficulties much depended on the adaptability and co-operation of the health department staff. I need only say that the difficulties were satisfactorily surmounted.

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH AGE DISTRIBUTION

								A	GES							S	EX	due to
(CAUSES OF DEATH														ds			deaths cause
		-			0	5	20	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	and		0	des
		der	0 2	5	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Jpv	0	nai	each d
		Under	- to	2 to	5 to	0	5	20	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	Male	Female	Total
,															1			
1	Typhoid and para- typhoid fevers						-		100					-	120	_	_	
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1		_		-	-	_	-	-	_		_	-	_	1	-	1
3	Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
4	Whooping cough	-		-	-		-	-	-	-		-	-	-	100	-	-	-
5	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
6	Tuberculosis of respira- tory system				1	1	6	6	10	10	15	22	6	1		53	25	78
7	Other tuberculosis			1	3	-	4	i	10	1	13	-	_	-		1	9	10
8	Syphilitic diseases	1	-			-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-		3	4	7
9	Influenza	-	22	-	-	-	-	_	-	1	4	3	4	3	1	8	8	16
10	Measles	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
11	Ac. poliomyelitis and																	
12	polioencephalitis	-		150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
12	Ac. inf. encephalitis									1		- 1				1	1	2
13	(lethargic) Cancer of buccal cavity					1000	33			10.50					100	1		1
,,	and œsophagus (M.)																	
	uterus (F.)	-	-	_				-	-		2	7	5		-	7	7	14
14	Cancer stomach and																	
	duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	10	13	-	-	13	15	28
15	Cancer breast	-	-	-	-			-	1	1	3	3	4	4	-	-	16	16
16	Cancer, all other sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		7	27	22	14	1	43	31	74
17	Diabetes Cerebral vascular les-	-	-			-		-		-	1	2	3	-	-	4	2	6
10	ions	_		1	_					3	6	15	24	15	6	35	34	69
19	Heart diseases	_			1	_	3	1	4	6	14	43	72	79	36	105	154	259
20	Other circulatory dis-											1		7.3%	1000	1		
	eases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	15	10	3	15	17	32
21	Bronchitis	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	13	34	38	39	7	94	47	141
22	Pneumonia (all forms)	17	2		7		- 1	-	1	2	5	15	21	13	3	42	38	80
23	Other respiratory dis-									1	2	4	2	4	2	5	10	15
24	Ulcer, stomach and									10	1	7	1	7	1	0	10	13
2.1	duodenum	-	_				-	1	_	3	4	5	4	2		17	2	19
25	Diarrhœa (under 2 yrs.)	8	2		-		_		-		1	-	-	_	_	6	4	10
26	Appendicitis	-	-	-	-		-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	4
27	Other digestive diseases	3		1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2 4	1	4	4	-	5 6	11	16
28	Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	3	1	2	1	6	7	13
29	Puerperal and post-													12.11				
30	abortive sepsis Other maternal causes													1	1			1
31	Premature birth	7								-						3	4	7
32	Congenital malforma-															1	1	
	tions, birth inj., inf.													1	111			
	dis	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	3	4	7
33	Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1	1	3	4	1	-	-	-	6	4	10
34	Road traffic accidents	1	-		2	1	2	-	2	-	2	2	3	2	10	13	127	17
35	Other violent causes All other causes	3 5	5	11	7	4	21	7	26	32	35	40	51	39	18	172	127	299
		3	-					-	-	3	0	0	10	13	7	34	30	
-	otal deaths (all causes)	59	10	14	14	6	40	18	56	78	134	247	310	245	87	699	619	1318

GENERAL DATA

Area of Borough						 	662 acre
Average height above sea-level			***			 	60 feet
Estimated number of houses (including separate	ely-rat	ed 1	flats)			 	12,120
Number of families (1931 census)			***	***		 	25,156
Rateable value						 1	£836,827
Sum represented by a penny rate						 	£3,138
				SHO	REDITCH	LC	NDON
the declaration of objections received.				1940	Average 1930-1939	1940	Average 1930-1939
Birth rate (rate per 1,000 living)				16.04	16-19	13.7	13-81
Still births (rate per 1,000 total births)			***	24-49	31-20		32-74
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 living)			***	23.09	13-42	17.8	11-99
Marriage rate (persons married per 1,000 living)	***			38-39	20-31		20-21
nfantile mortality rate— (deaths under I year per I,000 births)				69	69	50	61
Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live bir	ths)			2.34	2.36	-t	2.68
Death rate from pneumonia and bronchitis	***			3.87	1.79		
,, ,, cancer				2-31	1.60	-+	1.69
" " ,, diarrhœa and enteritis (under 2	years)	per	1,000	11-70	15-30	5.8	11-62
nulmananu auhannulasia				1.37	0.83	-t	0.75
Notifications of tuberculosis (per 1,000 population				1.91	1.68	-+	1-62
		not	availabl	e.			
	-						

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

VITAL STATISTICS

Populatio	on, estimated at midsummer	r, 1940			57,090
Number	of births registered		916	Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	16-04
- 11	" still births registered		. 23	Still birth rate (per 1,000 births)	24-49
	" infant deaths registered		. 59	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	69
- 11	,, deaths registered		1,318*	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	23.09
	100			Corrected death rate (comparability factor 1-02)	23-55
111	., maternal deaths register	ed	. 2	Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2.34
		Includes 2	99 due to " o	ther violent causes "	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(I) Infectious Diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re- moved to hospital	(4) Deaths regis- tered	(1) Infectious Diseases	(2) Cases notified	(3) Re- moved to hospital	(4) Deaths regis- tered
Scarlet fever	43	43		Measles	267	225	2
Diphtheria, membranous croup	63	63		Whooping cough	25	21	-
Enteric (including paratyphoid)	14	14	-	Ophthalmia neonatorum	13	2	-
Acute primary or influenzal				Puerperal fever		2	-
pneumonia	44	26	80	Puerperal pyrexia		8	-
Erysipelas	31	24	I I	Cerebro spinal fever	23	23	and loo
Acute poliomyelitis	lotte land	- M.L.	-	Encephalitis lethargica	2	2	2
Dysentery	29	26	1	The state of the s			
Tuberculosis-pulmonary	93	1	78		This was		
,, other forms	16	Contact	10		NITTOWN !		

DISINFECTION

A	DISINFE	CHON	In				
Number of houses dealt with	982 938 40,873*		or of articl ,, personsed	ons (exclu		ol children	1)
* Include	s 32,159 fo		purposes.	(min	as (CPI)	Angligad V	
Number of names received in birth lists Certificates of successful vaccination received ,, ,, postponement received	916 144 10	Certific	cates of in	susceptib ations of	ility recei objection	ved . s receive	d 397
				Individual la	MATERIAL PROPERTY.	100 (111)	
TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY			TUBER	CULOSIS	CARE	WORK	
No. of cases on Borough register on I-I-40, added in 1940, deleted in 1940, on Borough register on 3I-I2-40, new cases (excluding contacts), contacts Total attendances Patients admitted to institutions Specimens of sputum examined X-ray examinations Domiciliary visits by medical officer, T.B. visitors	1,073 144 195 1,022 154 115 2,650 146 487 363 94 2,995	Cases r	ases and receiving e given mon- liven other referred el	extra nou etary help r help	rishment		. 74
MOITAMS MEDICAL	AND DE	NTAL T		Cases	iaug	(7)	(8)
Service	No. of sessions held	(3) 0-5	(4) 5–15	(5) 15+	(6) Total	Re- visits	Total attend- ances
General medical clinic	83 83 379 50 464	3 157 117	24 79 399	235 233 451 981	235 233 478 236 1,497	665 507 2,322 612 3,574	900 740 2,800 848 5,071
FOOD,	SHOPS, F	ACTORII	ES, ETC.				
Samples of food taken for investigation Initial and routine inspections of shops under Shops Acts Re-inspections of shops under Shops Acts Inspections under Pharmacy and Poisons Act , of food premises and milk shops	742 281 28 102 1,428	Other I	,, wo	n-mechan orkplaces tworkers Act inspe	remises	ies	. 74 515
SANITARY I	NSPECTIO	ON AND	HOUSI	NG	ners suns	oni toni	arminings mil. physia
Number of complaints received , , intimation notices served , , , nuisance notices served , , , premises under sanitary notice Letters written to owners and others	1,305 2,603 664 8,884 1,115	Total vi	r of house ,, re-ins ,, notice sits of all	spections es served inspectio	under see	tion 9	. 12,894

MATERNITY AT	ND CI			ARE S'		TICAL	INFO	RMATI	ON
(1)	(2) Ist Vis	its	(3) Total		(1)		(2) Ist Vi	sits	(3) Total
Expectant mothers Infants Children aged 1–5 Interviews Futile visits	458 817 610	7 2	867 3,338 7,524 1,925 2,586	Ophthali etc. Puerpera Puerpera Child life Still birtl	l fever l pyrexia	ion	27 6 9 1 20		86 8 17 44 25
Children to a state	100	CLI	NIC AT	TENDANO	CES		Manag		10-25
(1)	(2)		Chil	ldren		(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
(1)	(2)	0-	-1	1-	-5	. (7)	(0)	(2)	
Centre	No. of Sessions	(3) Seen by	(4) Total	(5) Seen by	(6) Total	Ante- natal	Miscel- laneous	Total	H. V.'s Atten- dances
· and	Notificat	Dr.	Total	Dr.	Total	(8)	10	100	(1)
Model Welfare Centre Hoxton Hall* Haggerston Hall† Herbert Grove Brunswick Place‡	659 28 43 268 47	1,960 201 476 1,594 300	4,052 408 902 2,930 559	2,279 276 360 1,422 378	4,691 495 650 2,420 650	2,080 473 	3,189 140 217 669 201	14,012 1,043 1,769 6,492 1,410	878 26 53 406 78
Total	1,045	4,531	8,851	4,715	8,906	2,553	4,416	24,726	1,441
Toddlers' clinic	(2) First 346 91	10 10	(3) Fotal 640			Mothers Children	(2) Firs	t 10	(3) Total
Mothers without children	MAN THE	2,	178	Housewi	tery class	es	100		489
2 2 151 16	111		DINING	CENTRES				100	NIPI SEVI
(1)				(2) el Welfare Centre	н	(3) erbert Gr	ove	(4 Tot	
Ordinary dinners served to m ly Dinners served to toddlers Mothers on register at end o Toddlers on register at end o	2019 2019 2019 2019 2019	3,573 3,429 2 1		1,572 20 3,167		5,1 6,5	20		
			MISCELL	ANEOUS		Parker II			
Mayfield: admissions discharges and tra Admissions to other convaled Visits under otorrhœa schem Home help cases Midwifery cases: Council St. Bart.'s ante-natal Maternity dressings	nsfers escent hor e	mes	206 206 10 530 188 106 	Maximur Free mill end end Reduced end	n free mi k recipie of 3rd q of 4th qu cost mill of 3rd qu	Ik allowand ilk al	ces)*— s (C.M.S.	1	20 790 ,050 750 750 600

^{*} The national cheap milk scheme commenced in July, 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

District nursing association Cases visited	***	***		141	Number of common lodging houses Public mortuary—bodies received	322
Total visits	***			2,019	,, post-mortem examinations	315
Child life protection :-					Food and Drugs Acts :-	
Children received		***	***	2	Number of informal samples taken	481
Cases on register				40.4	" " adulterated	15
Total visits			***	58	" " formal samples taken …	119
Total bacteriological and p inations made	***			1,534	Legal proceedings taken	6
Persons receiving domicilia	try relie	:f:-			Total legal proceedings taken	18
	***		***	1,954	(One dismissed; the others successful.)	
,, ,, ,, 2nd ,,	***			1,774		
,, ,, 3rd ,,	***		***	623		
,, ,, ,, 4th ,,			***	493		

TUBERCULOSIS IN SHOREDITCH

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)				Pulm	onary	Notifi	cations			
Year	Pop. (nearest '000)	Total notifi- cations	Notifi- cation rate	(5) 0—5	(6) 5—15	15- M.	7) -25 F.		8) -35 F.	(9) 35+	(10) Total	Perce of N	entage 1 & F ol. (7) F.
1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918	109 108 102 99 88 87	905 604 559 538 577 480	8·3 5·6 5·5 5·4 6·6 5·5	28 18 17 15 10 8	88 46 38 38 47 58	10 5 6 5 46 46	5	57 46	494 359 313 265 35 45		719 478 429 370 454 435	55 58	45 42
1919 1920 1921 1922 *1923-	98 101 104 105	503 303 265 287	5·1 3·0 2·5 2·7	6 8 5 5 5	39 24 23 17	31 33 19 26	36 24 19 30	28 23 28 21	40 23 23 23 23	201 128 109 105	397 268 221 234	46 58 50 46	54 42 50 54
*1928- 1932 *1933-	98	215	2.2	2	14	25	30	17	17	72	176	45	55
1937 1938 1939 1940	88 80 77 57	147 118 91 109	1.7 1.5 1.2 1.9	2 3 1 2	8 4 3 6	15 15 18 15	20 18 17 22	12 4 6 12	11 6 6 6	53 46 22 30	121 96 73 93	43 45 51 40	57 55 49 60
1941	‡40	85	12-8	3	3	7	15	6	6	34	74	32	68

^{*} Averaged.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TOWN HALL, OLD STREET, E.C.I.

30th October, 1941.

E. H. R. SMITHARD

Medical Officer of Health.



^{† 1}st three-quarters.

[‡] Unofficial estimate.

For the year.